

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRAZZA 00608 151729Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ACDA-12 HA-05 SCS-06 CA-01 PC-10 NSCE-00 SSO-00

ICAE-00 INRE-00 /128 W

-----105923 151734Z /73

O 151700Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 560

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA NIACT IMMEDIATE 006

AMEMBASSY ROME NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMECONSUL LUBUMBASHI NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS NIACT IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAFE WIESBADEN GE IMMEDIATE

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII IMMEDIATE

USINT HAVANA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

UDKBT/AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY 006

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KIGALI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRAZZAVILLE 0608

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MOPS, CASC, CG, CF, US

SUBJECT: SHABA INCURSIONS

REF: STATE 122792

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PAGE 02 BRAZZA 00608 151729Z

1. PRESIDENTIAL POLITICAL ADVISOR EKONDY ASKED TO SEE ME AT 0800 MAY 15. HE SAID THAT HE WAS VERY CONCERNED OVER SITUATION IN SHABA AND, IN NAME OF PRESIDENT YHOMBY-OPANGO, WAS CALLING IN ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR AND ANGOLAN CHARGE FOR BRIEFING. EKONDY ADDED THAT HE PLANNED TO LEAVE BRAZZAVILLE TODAY TO JOIN PRESIDENT

YHOMBY-OPANGO IN COTONOU, AND WOULD BRING ALONG CONGOLESE AMBASSADOR TO KINSHASA.

2. EKONDY REITERATED CONGOLESE DESIRE TO MEDIATE ZAIRE/ANGOLAN QUESTION, BUT SAID THAT KEY QUESTION BOTHERING HIM WAS WHETHER CURRENT PROBLEMS ARE INTERNAL, OR REALLY ASSISTED AND ABETTED BY ANGOLA. EKONDY REFERRED TO CONVERSATION HE HAD HAD EARLIER THIS YEAR WITH MOBUTU, AT WHICH TIME MOBUTU ALLEGEDLY TOLD EKONDY HOW MUCH HE DISTRUSTED BALUBA IN HIS ARMY. EKONDY NOTED SUBSEQUENT PURGE, AND OPINED THAT IT, COMBINED WITH SHABA DEVELOPMENTS, THUS MAY REFLECT INTERNAL DISSENSION RATHER THAN OUTSIDE ROLE.

3. THINKING OUT LOUD, EKONDY SAID HE FELT IT IMPORTANT THAT NO ONE SPECULATE THAT CONGO HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH SHABA DEVELOPMENTS OR MOVEMENT AGAINST MOBUTU. ACCORDINGLY, HE TENTATIVELY IS THINKING OF PROPOSING TO YHOMBY THAT CONGOLESE COMMUNICATE TO MOBUTU AND ANGOLANS GOCB DESIRE TO RENEW MEDIATION EFFORTS. EKONDY ADDED THAT THIS INITIATIVE MIGHT WELL BE LEAKED TO PRESS, IN ORDER THAT OUTSIDERS RECOGNIZE YHOMBY POSITION: IF OFFER IS ACCEPTED, FINE; IF NOT, AT LEAST IT IS ON THE RECORD.

4. LATER DURING THE DAY, WE SPOKE WITH HIGH CONGOLESE LABOR PARTY OFFICIAL FEVILIYE-MBIMPA, WHO CRITICIZED
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PAGE 03 BRAZZA 00608 151729Z

INCURSION FROM OUTSIDE, "IF THAT WAS INDEED WHAT WAS TAKING PLACE."

5. BELIEVE YHOMBY WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO US REQUEST TO CONVEY MESSAGE TO ANGOLANS REGARDING OUR CONCERNS FOR SECURITY OF US CITIZENS, AND ASKING FOR SUPPORTIVE ACTION FROM THEIR REP IN LUANDA. WOULD NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT UNLESS YHOMBY CHOOSES TO RETURN TO BRAZZAVILLE, GIVEN CIRCUMSTANCES, HE WILL BE TRAVELLING FROM COTONOU TO PYONGYANG, AND WILL BE ABSENT UNTIL EARLY JUNE. FOREIGN MINISTER OBENGA IS ALSO OUT OF THE COUNTRY. ACTING PRESIDENT IS SASSOU-NGUESSO, WHOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH MOBUTU AND PROBABLE EFFICIENCY IN HELPING US, ARE LESS CERTAIN.
KATZEN

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